



S H O C H I K U

Kabuki Play

" SAKAZAKI DEWANOKAMI "

(Written by Yuzo YAMAMOTO)

To be presented by KIKUGORO & KOSHIRO Joint Troupe
at the Embujo Theater from Jan. 2nd to Jan.

1949

DRAMATIS PERSONAE:

Tokugawa Ieyasu;

Ieyasu's Grand-daughter Sen-hime, Toyotomi Hideyori's
Wife, aged 19;

Honda Sadonokami Masanobu;

Honda Kozunosuke Masazumi;

Konchiin Soden;

Sakazaki Dewanokami Shigemasa, Lord of Castle of Tsuwano,
Sesshu Province, aged 28 - 9 ;

Chief Retainer Miyake Sobe;

Chief Retainer Matsukawa Gentaro;

Several Attendants of Sakazaki;

Two Pages of Sakazaki;

Numbers of Retainers of Sakazaki;

Nambu Samon

Lady Gyobukyo; Honda Heihachiro Tadanori, Heir of Lord
Honda Tadamasa of Castle of Kuwana, Seishu Province,
aged 23 - 4;

Two Tea-Boys;

Several Staff-Officers of Headquarters;

Two Messengers of Headquarters;

Ikeda's Messenger;

Maeda's Messenger;

Todo's Messenger;

Matsudaira's Messenger;

Soldier On Sentry, Numbers of Soldiers;

A Few Attendants of Tadanori;

Tea-Boys of Sumpu Castle;

Waiting-Maids of Sumpu Castle.

Synopsis:

Long, long time ago, in the year 1615 Tokugawa's forces laying siege to the Castle of Osaka were in high spirits. When the fall of the castle was imminent, Ieyasu, supreme commander of Tokugawa's forces, happened to think of his granddaughter Sen-hime whom he had married to Lord Keeper of Privy Seal Hideyori and worried about her.

In the meantime, Sakazaki Dewanokami, daimio (Japanese feudal vassal) under Ieyasu's command, who had brought up the rear lost a golden opportunity of distinguishing himself in battle and regretted it, but understanding Ieyasu's mind, he offered to save Sen-hime from the enemy castle. Being delighted with his great undertaking, Ieyasu promised him that Ieyasu would marry Sen-hime to him as a reward if he could succeed in rescuing her from death, because the former knew that the latter had been unmarried.

Although Sakazaki saved her life successfully, owing to the self-sacrificing deed he got burnt in the face and became ugly-looking.

On the other hand, Sen-hime was touched deeply by Sakazaki's kindness, but without knowing the existence of such a firm promise between Ieyasu and Sakazaki she made love to Honda Heihachiroh, one of Ieyasu's favorites and refused to marry Sakazaki against Ieyasu's words. Thereupon Ieyasu was obliged to leave the matter to Archbishop Honjiin Souden, so Souden racked his brain and succeeded in letting Sakazaki give up Sen-hime.

by telling him a downright lie that she would become a nun so as to pray for the repose of her dead husband Hideyori's soul. As for Sakazaki, he was obliged to agree upon it on the condition that Sen-hime would never marry any other man.

The fact, however, was that Senhime was to marry Honda Heihachiroh before long. On the very day of Sen-hime's marriage, knowing that her marriage procession would pass by his mansion, Sakazaki felt indignant though he had given her up once.

Genrokuroh, one of Sakazaki's retainers, who had accompanied Sakazaki in saving Sen-hime from death suggested with a petition written in blood that he would like to attack Sen-hime's palanquin and take her back, but Sakazaki reproved him for his harebrained ideas.

Thereupon Genroku felt so mortified that he retired to the antechamber and killed himself. Thus Sakazaki had endeavoured to give up Sen-hime, but at length he lost his temper and broke into the procession. Being held down by one of his retainers, therefore, he gradually recovered composure and recalled that Yagyu Tajimanokami, one of his old friends, who had been in the procession, had scoled him by calling him "~~an~~ insane man" for fear that future trouble would ^{have} ~~be~~ befallen him, but he said that he would rather die as a sane man than live as an insane man and told his retainers to bury Genrokuroh's body reverentially and then took his short sword composedly so as to disembowel himself.

Period:

From May, 1615 To September, 1616.

THE FIRST ACT

----- The First Scene -----

Ieyasu's Headquarters At Mt. Chausu

On three sides of the stage there are put up bamboo palisades over which spreads a curtain with the family crest of a hollyhock.

On the right there is Ieyasu's seat, but a curtain is spread double over it, so it cannot be seen from the spectators' seats. Near it there are set up some streamers and pennons attached to horses. Beside the palisade in the center of the stage there is a lofty tree. On the top of the tree there is a soldier on sentry. Under the tree a few members of Ieyasu's staff seated on a chest of an armour have unfolded a map of the northern district and are planning something.

The busy atmosphere within the camp prevails over everything. The reports of guns and the noises of commotions are heard incessantly. The evening on the seventh of May in the first year of Genna (1615). At the entrance a warrior is standing and blowing a trumpet-shell ^oludly.

While he is blowing the trumpet-shell, the curtain rises.

Honda Kozunosuke Masazumi, administrator of the Headquarters, is handing written messages to cavalrymen on an errand.

One of the cavalrymen has already sat astride his horse and the other one is also going to mount his horse.

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Honda Kazunosuke Masazumi;

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Lord of Castle of Tsuwano, Sesshu Province, aged 28--9;

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Several Attendants of Sakazaki;

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of Castle of Kuwana, Seishu Province, aged 23--4;

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Two Messengers of Headquarters;

Ikeda's Messenger;

Maeda's Messenger;

Todo's Messenger;

Matsudaira's Messenger;

Soldier On Sentry;

Numbers of Soldiers;

A Few Attendants of Tadanori;
Tea-Boys of Sumpu Castle;
Waiting-Maids of Sumpu Castle.

Masazumi: Well, then, will you go to the camp of Okayama at once?

(Says to one of the cavalrymen.)

First Cavalryman: Very well. Good-bye. (Drives off on horseback immediately. Masazumi says to the other cavalryman.)

Masazumi: Will you see Ii-dono and hand this note directly to him?

Second Cavalryman: Certainly. Good-bye. (Drives off immediately after the other cavalryman.

Almost at the same time a soldier comes in from out of doors and says to Masazumi.)

First Soldier: Just now a messenger of Ikeda Musashinokami-sama came.

Masazumi: A messenger of Musashi-dono, eh-----?

Show him in right away.

(The first soldier exits respectfully. In less than no time, Ikeda's messenger is led in.)

Masazumi: Thank you for the trouble you have taken on a message. And what's Musashi-dono's verbal message?

Ikeda's Messenger: Our forces would like to cross the river and to attack the enemy at Tenjin Bridge, so our master told me to tell you that he wants you to give us instructions about it.

(Masazumi consults the map.)

Masazumi: Oh, how prudent of him indeed! However, I'll have to tell Ogosho-sama (Ieyasu) of it first of all, so please wait for a while.

(Masazumi goes into the tent on the right, but comes out of it again in a minute and replies to the messenger.)

Masazumi: Ogosho-sama has also given permission to it, so please make arrangements for it at once.

Ikeda's Messenger: Certainly.

(Thereupon the messenger leaves hurriedly. At a distance war-cries as well as the intense reports of guns are heard.

(Masazumi straightens himself and says to the soldier on sentry.)

Masazumi: Soldier On Sentry, how is the situation of the van?

Soldier On Sentry: Being prevented by the smoke of guns and dust of people and horses, I can't understand it well, but the chances are in our favor, I should say.

Masazumi: Well, then, did our streamers start going forward?

Soldier On Sentry: I suppose it's the camp of the House of Echizen. White streamers and double pennons attached to horses are rapidly pushing forward in the direction of the enemy.

(Masazumi says consulting the map.)

Masazumi: By the way, in what direction are the forces of the House of Echizen advancing?

Soldier On Sentry: They're surging forward to the Black Gate from the entrance of Semba and bearing down upon the enemy.

Masazumi:

Masazumi: From the entrance of Semba to the Black Gate,
eh? (Takes his eyes off the map.)
Are only the forces from the camp of the House of
Echizen taking the lead?

Soldier On Sentry: No, no, in the direction of the south the
pennons attached to horses with the designs of
feathers on double umbrellas and in scraps of gold
charging in upon the enemy dazzle in the evening
sun and are especially conspicuous.

Masazumi: Hmm. They must be the pennons attached to horses of
Mizuno Hyuganokami. Indeed Hyuga-dono is sagacious.
And how is the situation of the entrance of Okayama?

Soldier On Sentry: It seems to be Ii-dono's camp and a corps of
the garrison are exchanging blows violently with
the enemy in front of the Inari shrine.

Masazumi: Hasn't the issue of the skirmish been decided yet?

Soldier On Sentry: No, ----- the issue------. Oh, Maeda
Chikuzennokami-dono's followers thrust at the
enemy from their flank. The enemy soldiers seem to be
confused and their streamers and horse pennons lie
scattered to and fro.

Look, look! The guards of the castle have started
retiring to the castle-gate in less than no time.

Masazumi: Well, then, our soldiers have started pressing
hard on the ~~en~~ enemy, haven't they?

Soldier On Sentry: Our own troops have attacked the enemy simultaneously from the entrance of Okayama as well as from that of the Tennoji Temple.

Especially a corps of the van have forced their way into the paling of the third castle, it seems.

Masazumi: What a matter for congratulation, what a matter for congratulation! Keep sharp watch.

(The second soldier comes in and says to Masazumi:)

Second Soldier: Sadonokami-sama has come.

Masazumi: Father, eh?

(Honda Sadonokami Masanobu comes in.)

Masazumi: Father, our own troops will win the day.

Masanobu: Yeah, the tide is turning to us, so I'm sure the castle will fall into our hands in a minute.

Ogosho must be very much satisfied with it.

By the way, I've something to tell him confidentially, so I've come here hurriedly.

Masazumi: Any confidential talk?

(Masanobu nods. Masazumi leads the way to Masanobu and goes into the curtain together with him.

The third soldier comes in and speaks to the staff-officers.)

Third Soldier: Excuse me, I'll tell you. Just now Sakazaki Dewanokami-sama came.

First Staff-Officer: Do you mean 'Dewa-dono's messenger?

Third Soldier: No, no, he came himself.

First Staff-Officer: Show him here.

Third Soldier: Very well. (Leaves reverentially.

Sakazaki Dewanokami Shigemasa comes in.)

First Staff-Officer: Welcome, Dewa-dono!

Second Staff-Officer: Is it on any urgent business that
you've come here in person?

Shigemasa: I've some important request to make, so I've
come here.

Will you kindly tell Ogosho-sama that I'd
like to see him?

Second Staff-Officer: Very well. However, he's now
talking privately with Sado-dono, so please
wait for a while.

Shigemasa: Very well.

(The soldier offers a stool to Shigemasa.)

First Staff-Officer: We're in the camp, so please forgive
us for plainness.

Shigemasa: The very same thing can be said with us.

(The fourth soldier hurriedly comes in.)

Fourth Soldier: An urgent messenger of Maeda Chikuzennokami-
dono has come.

Third Staff-Officer: Show him here quickly.

(The fourth soldier withdraws reverentially. In
no time Maeda's messenger comes in.)

Maeda's Messenger: The details will be put in writing later on,

but our troops made a raid on the enemy's position and captured the third castle, so we hasten to let you know it.

Third Staff-Officer: Bravo! We'll tell Ogosho-sama of it right away. Thank you for your message.

Maeda's Messenger: Then, good-bye. (Leaves. The third staff-officer goes into the curtain on the right side. Shigemasa says as if talking to himself:)

Shigemasa: The third castle has already fallen.
(The fifth soldier again comes in.)

Fifth Soldier: A messenger of Todo Izuminokami-sama came.

First Staff-Officer: Of Izuminokami-dono, eh? Show him here right away.

(The fifth soldier withdraws reverentially. Just after he leaves, Matsudaira's messenger comes in.)

Todo's Messenger: Izuminokami will show up here before long, but we'll hastily announce the state of affairs with this note, so please submit this to the supreme commander's inspection. (Offers a note.)

First Staff-Officer: Very well.

(Receives the note from the messenger and goes into the interior.)

Fourth Staff-Officer: You must be tired with riding the horse, so you'd better take a rest.

Todo's Messenger: Thank you very much. (Leaves for the next compartment. All of a sudden the soldier keeping sentry on the tree shouts/)

Soldier On Sentry: Oh, the second castle has fallen, as well.

Shigemasa: (Straightens himself.) The second castle, as well?

Soldier On Sentry: I can't see for ~~xxx~~ certain which of the corps has invaded it, but columns of black smoke are rising in the direction of the second castle.

Second Staff-Officer: Those leading the van seem to be in hot pursuit of the enemy. (Holds the fourth staff-officer's hand.) Mr. Yoshida, it's a great pleasure, isn't it?

Fourth Staff-Officer: I didn't think we'd win the day so easily.

(Both of them hold their hands tightly and go wild with joy. Meanwhile, the first and the third staff-officer come back to the yard. Just then a cavalryman of the House of Echizen rides up to the curtain.)

Matsudaira's Messenger: I've come from the camp of Matsudaira Mikawanokami.

Second Staff-Officer: Thank you for your trouble on a message. (Matsudaira's messenger dismounts the horse, takes two chests of decapitated heads off the saddle and hands them to the staff-officers.)

Matsudaira's Messenger: Will you kindly submit these decapitated heads to Ogosho-sama's inspection?

Fourth Staff-Officer: You've hurriedly come here on horseback, so I suppose they're the decapitated heads of generals.

Matsudaira's Messenger: You've guessed right.

In our camp, since this morning we've beheaded more than three thousand and six hundred enemy soldiers, but these two are the decapitated heads of famous generals, so we hasten to submit them to the supreme commander's inspection.

This decapitated head is that of the famed general Echizennokami Masatomo. This is the decapitated head of Sanada Saemon Yukimura.

Shigematsu: Why, do you mean to say that you beheaded Sanada?

Matsudaira's Messenger: Yes, Nishio Nizaemon of our corps beheaded him.

Second Staff-Officer: Ogosho-sama might inquire about it, so please accompany me.

(The second staff-officer holds the chests of decapitated heads in his arms and goes into the interior together with the messenger.)

Third Staff-Officer: Yesterday Kimura Nagato, Susukita Hayato and Goto Matabe died in action and today the famous hero ~~Sanada~~ Sanada was killed, so there is practically no hero now among the guards of the castle, I should say.

First Staff-Officer: Especially the third castle and the second castle have already fallen, so the fall of the castle proper is now imminent. (Says to Shigemasa:) Dewanokami-dono, it's a matter for mutual congratulation, isn't it?

Shigemasa: As for me, I am not in the least happy.

Third Staff-Officer: Well, Dewa-dono, I can hardly understand your words. Do you mean to say that you aren't happy to hear our own troops' victory?

Shigematsu: Well, today my own corps have brought up the rear, so I've wanted to lead the van and to render a distinguished service by all means tomorrow, but, sorry to say, not only the corps of the House of Echizen, but all those in the van have performed so many meritorious deeds that I shall have no more opportunity to distinguish myself in battle. That's my great regret.

Fourth Staff-Officer: You've always ^{an} unyielding spirit, I should say.

Shigemasa: Ah, my fingers itch for the fray and the flesh of my thighs tremble for want of fighting.

Staff-Officer: Dewa-dono, you needn't be so impatient.

This isn't the last battle, so you'll have another good opportunity of rendering a distinguished service. (Starts rising to his feet with a discontented look.)

Third Staff-Officer: How about seeing Ogosho-sama?

Shigemasa : Now that Sanada have died and the second castle as well as the third castle has fallen, my request for leading the van has been useless. I can't bear staying here and hearing the others' exploits and looking at their triumphant looks. I'll leave here right now, so please give my kind regards to Ogosho-sama.

(Shigemasa starts going dispiritedly. The reports of guns are heard incessantly.

All of a sudden the soldier on sentry slips down the tree.)

Soldier On Sentry: The castle proper has caught fire.

First Staff-Officer: The castle proper, eh?

Second Staff-Officer: Oh, how terrific the columns of smoke are!

Fourth Staff-Officer: Well, then, let's report it to the supreme commander right away.

Third Staff-Officer: No, Ogosho-sama will be here.

(Ieyasu comes out, accompanied by Honda, Sado and his son, Konchiin Soden and the others.

Masazumi says pleasantly:)

Masazumi: Ah, it's burning, it's burning.

Masanobu: The well-known impregnable castle will fall not later than today.

We all congratulate you upon your victory.

(All present bow to Ieyasu. Ieyasu looks closely at the burning castle for a while, but happens to shed tears.)

Masazumi: Ogosho-sama, why have you shed tears?

Ieyasu: My heart has been full, so I've unconsciously shed tears.

Masanobu: I can hardly understand why you've shed tears on the occasion of your own troops' victory.

Ieyasu: Forgive me. I'm to blame for it. I'm afraid I've become very old. Looking closely at the castle, I can't help worrying about my granddaughter whom I gave to Hideyori in wedlock.

Although Sen-hime married him, she'll also have to die in the fire, so I've felt pity for her.

(Soden says as if recalling it:)

Soden: Oh, Lady Sen-hime must be within the castle, so we'll have to save her from a terrible death before the castle falls.

Masanobu: Oh, you needn't worry about it.

Ieyasu: Well, do you mean to say that I needn't worry about her?

Masanobu: I let my spy in the castle beforehand, so he'll stealthily leave the castle with the young lady and take her here before long.

Soden: Sado-dono, you're always clever at anything.

(The sixth soldier comes in.)

Sixth Soldier: Excuse me, Sadonokami-sama, I'll tell you.

A man named Nambu Samon wishes to see you.

Masanobu: Oh, he's the very spy that I let in the castle.

Take him here right away.

Sixth Soldier: Very well.

(Leaves reverentially. Nambu Samon comes in.)

Masanobu: Samon, did you succeed in the attempt?

Samon: My lord, I'm sorry-----

Masanobu: Well, then, didn't you take the lady with you?

Samon: I beg your pardon.

As a matter of fact, as you told me, I plotted to let her run off in co-operation with Lady Gyobukyo, but Yodo-dono insisted that she would never let the hostage of the Kanto forces escape and didn't leave her, so I couldn't do anything to save her.

Ieyasu: Under the circumstances, right before the fall of the castle she bears a grudge against me so much that she'll surely torture the young lady.

Masazumi: Should such a thing happen, it'd be a serious matter.

Soden: Isn't there any way of going there to rescue the young lady immediately?

If we go there right now, we shall be in time.

Ieyasu: Any one who comes back with the young lady shall receive a fine reward.

Masanobu: Samon, you go back into the castle once more.

Samon: Very ---- very well (Says so, but seems to hesitate. The terrific boom of guns is heard incessantly.

First Staff-Officer: Ah, the castle-tower has caught fire.

Soden: There is not a moment to lose.
Ah, isn't there any hero who dares to jump into the fire?

Masazumi: Shall I send out the official notice to all our forces?

Samon: However, in such a raging fire.-----.
(Just then from behind the curtain Itazaki Dewa Shigemasa runs out suddenly.)

Shigemasa: Will you please entrust me with the mission?

Third Staff-Officer: Ah, Dewanokami-dono, have you still been there?

Shigematsu: No, I've turned back on my way so as to congratulate the supreme commander on the fall of the castle.

Masazumi: By the way, did you hear the talk?

Shigemasa: I roughly heard of it in the next compartment.

Masanobu: Well, then, will you save the young lady from the inside of the castle in the teeth of the terrific fire?

Shigemasa: I'll never fail to accompany her here so long as I am alive.

Ieyasu: Hm, I'll charge you with the mission. Go there right away.

You shall receive any reward as you like.

Shigemasa: Very well.

(Replies to him and immediately rises to his feet.)

Ieyasu: Oh, wait.

Shigemasa: Yes.

Ieyasu: You're still unmarried, aren't you?

Shigemasa: Yes.

Ieyasu: If you should rescue her from the fire successfully,
I'd allow you to take ^{my grand-daughter} ~~the young lady~~ to wife.

Shigemasa: It's very kind of you to say so.

(Runs out quick as lightning.

All the others see him off.)

THE SECOND SCENE

Part of the Castle Proper

Part of the Osaka Castle; from among the stone-walls sparks shoot up in the air; from within the castle a great many men and women dressed as they please run off. In the midst of the mêlée between Aanto's forces and those of Osaka Sakazaki Shigemasa, Miyake Sobe and Matsukawa Genrokuro come out fighting with the soldiers of the castle and kill one or two of them. Matsukawa is wounded in the right eye.

Sobe: (Says to Genrokuro while fighting with the enemy.)

You have been wounded, I'm afraid.

Genrokuro: Well, I'm slightly wounded, but am worried about our lord.

Sobe: (uneasily) Oh, I can't see our lord.

(Sobe is about to go into the castle while fighting when Shigemasa who has got burnt comes out with Sen-hime on his back, followed by a lady and her maid.)

Sobe: (To Shigemasa)

Oh, my lord, you've successfully ----

Shigemasa: Ah, hum: (Kills at a stroke a soldier of the castle who makes a raid on him.)

Genrokuro: My lord, have you also hurt yourself?

Shigemasa: No, I haven't got hurt.

Genrokuro: However, your features are ----.

Shigemasa: (Touching his face with one hand.)

Hmm, as I jumped into the fire, I'm afraid I've got slightly burnt.

(Changes his tone.)

Follow me right away.

(Shigemasa pulls his horse and starts walking.

All his followers start going.)

--- Act Drop ---

THE SECOND ACT

Within a ship going from Kuwana to Miya;
the deck of the ship is seen all over the stage; the vessel
seen from the stern; only half of its length is on the
stage. In the middle there is a big mast over which spreads a
big white sail as if breaking the stage in the middle.
Owing to that, at first the ship and a barge standing beside it
cannot be seen at all. Both sides of the ship are
spread with curtains with the family crest of a hollyhock
dyed on them. Both the front and the back side of the
ship have companion-ways leading to the bottom of the ship.
Except the vessel, the stage represents the sea.

Fall of the same year; Shigemasa leans against the railing
on one side of the ship and looks down on the sea spellbound;
on his temple there is a big scar of the burn: beside him
Matsukawa Genrokuro who lost one eye in the battle of Osaka
is kneeling. Aboard the ship there is no sign of human
presence. Only the notes of plovers are heard.

Shigemasa: The view of the sea is especially nice.

Genrokuro: It's so spacious that I feel swell.

Shi: Where's that place seen dimly over there?

Gen: Well, I'm afraid I don't know where it is, ~~as~~ /
as I'm a stranger in these parts.

Shi: Really? However, I didn't think I'd cross this sea watching over the young lady today.

Gen: When we think of the fall of the castle, we really feel as if we were in a dream.

Shi: I thank you for the meritorious deed you rendered on that occasion, but I'm sorry you got ~~wound~~ ^{hurt} in the eye.

Gen: Well, it's only a slight wound and as compared with your distinguished service, I'm ashamed of myself, my lord.

Although I surely accompanied you as far as the moon-viewing castle-turret, my lord, when I lost sight of you owing to the raging fire and columns of black smoke, I got startled.

Shi: Then I went straight into the terrific fire, but I didn't suppose that Lady Sen-hime had been behind the stone-wall beyond the castle-turret and could relieve her from the trouble so easily.

Gen: My lord, when you came back so rapidly with the young lady on your back, we couldn't believe our eyes.

- Shi: My features changed so much.
However, until you all reminded me of the burn
I hadn't taken notice of it at all, because
I had been in high spirits.
(All of a sudden a noise is heard from the direction
of the bottom of the vessel.
Thereupon Shigemasa straightens himself.)
- Shi: What was that noise?
- Gen: The boatmen might have started quarreling.
- Shi: Although the young lady is on board this vessel,
it's silly of the boatmen to do such a thing.
Genrokuro, go there right away
and ~~put down~~ ^{suppress} their commotion.
- Gen: Very well.
(Genrokuro hurriedly goes down to the
bottom of the vessel. Just then, from the
direction of the prow two tea-boys waiting on
Sen-hime come.)
- First Tea-boy: Dewanokami-sama, have you been here?
(Shigemasa looks back at them two rather
arrogantly with no word.)
- Second Tea-boy: We wish we were in your shoes,
so have been looking for you.
- Shi: Why, do you wish you were in my shoes?

Second Tea-boy: Taht's right.

We can rarely read even in a fairy-tale such a thing as you jumped into the fire and rescued the young lady from the fire.

That you could do easily,

My lord, so we really got frightened out of our wits.

You must have some secrets in doing so.

Will you please initiate us into the secrets?

(Chigemasa gets a little puffed up.)

Shi: Ha, ha, ha, I had no secrets at all,
but jumped only into the fire.

First Tea-boy: However, it's by no means an easy thing
for us to jump into a fire.

Shi: Well, then, you'd better try to be a little stronger.

First Tea-boy: Oh, I see.

Second Tea-boy: Although there are a great many

brave warriors, there can't be any man
who is so gallant as you, my lord.

Even the seven heroes with spears of Shizugatake
and any brave dualist can't be so gallant

as you, my lord. First of all, you

saved the beautiful young lady from death, and
escort her to Sumpu and then are to
take her to lady very soon.

You as a man can't expect so much happiness as this.

First tea-boy: Ha, ha, ha, ha.

I wish I were in your shoes, my lord.

Shi: Behave yourself.

First tea-boy: So sorry.

Shi: Your words are too rude.

Such a man as you can't expect to be in
the same position as I, can you?

First tea-boy: Oh, I beg your pardon for my rudeness.

Please forgive me.

(Noisy voices are again heard from the bottom of the
vessel. Shigemasa gets more and more angry.)

Tut, tut!

What a noise the boatmen are making again!

(Saying so, Shigemasa roughly runs down to the
bottom of the vessel. The first tea-boy
imitates his tone.)

First tea-boy: What a rough man!

Second tea-boy: He is so proud of having saved the young lady
from death that he puts on airs with us.

~~xxxxxx~~

First tea-boy: However, not only he but also anybody
who has rendered such a meritorious deed is
apt to boast of it.

Second tea-boy: However, when we look at his terrible face, ----.

First tea-boy: Should the young lady have to marry such
a man, we'd feel pity for her.

(The second tea-boy looks at the bow.)

Second " : Hush!

(Reproves him. Sen-hime comes out, accompanied
by Lady Gyobunokyo and the others.)

Lady Gyobunokyo: Mademoiselle, when you look
down upon the wide sea, you can somewhat dispel
your gloom, can't you?

(Sen-hime utters no word.)

L. G.: Mademoiselle, if you're so much
cast down, it'll affect your body, I'm afraid.
(Happens to see a swan.)

Look! A swan has perched on the mast.

Oh, it has fled away again.

(Again noises are heard from the bottom
of the vessel.)

L. G.: How noisy: What's the matter, I wonder?

(The first tea-boy says looking at the stern:)

First Tea-boy: It seems the boatmen are having high words over it.

(The second tea-boy says looking at the
bottom of the vessel from the companion-way:)

Second tea-boy: Oh, no, Dewanokami-sama is scolding the boatmen.

L. G.: I'm afraid Dewanokami-sama has recently come to scold others over trifles, but he'd better leave the matters about this ship to the boatmen, I should think.

F.T.: Exactly so.

(Just then Honda Heihachiro Tadanori bows to Sen-hime with no word and passes through the bottom of the vessel.

After a while the commotion dies down.)

S.T.: Oh, the commotion has completely died down.

F.T.: Young as Heihachiro-sama is, he's very good at judgement.

Sen-hime: Who's the man that passed here just now?

L.G.: He's Honda Heihachiro Tadanori-dono. He's heir to Minonokami, lord of the castle of this province Kuwana and grandson to Heihachiro Tadakatsu-dono, one of the four Devos. When we go across this sea, the lord of the Kuwana clan is to make arrangements for a ship, so today he has attended upon you so as to act as escort.

Sen: Oh, I see.

L.G.: I suppose Heihachiro-dono is familiar with this neighborhood, so what do you say to calling him and asking the geography of him? I'm sure it'd be very amusing.

Ryosai-dono, sorry to trouble you, but call Heihachiro^{h do}-~~no~~, please.

F.T.: Very well.

(Goes down the companion-way hurriedly.)

After a while Honda Heihachiro^h Tadanori comes with the tea-boy and places his hands down.)

L.G.: We're strangers in these parts, so will you please tell the young lady of the landscape of this neighborhood?

Ia: Oh, it's an easy thing. Then, I'll tell you. This ferry used for going across the sea from Kuwana to Miya has seen much service^v from olden times and people never failed to pass here when they used to go down from Kyo to Azuma. This ferry is so famous that it is mentioned in Narihira Ason's "Story of Ise.

The distance is seven miles, so it's popularly called "Seven Miles' Ferry, but it's also called "Waiting Ferry."

Here's an old poem, which says "At the Waiting Ferry under the moonlight the boatman enjoying the moonlight does not hasten to the village."

Ships pass here even at night.

Look. Stands a lofty tower over there.

At night the tower is lighted, so it has an especially fine view and it serves as a sign in the night to boatmen, as well.

L.G.: While hearing your ~~so~~ story, Heihachiro^h-dono, we forget the troubles of our journey.

It would be very amusing if we could travel with such a jolly man as you.

Ta: Don't say so.

I'm very blunt of speech, so I can't entertain you.

L.G.: If you could attend upon her not only aboard this ferry-boat, but accompany her as far as Sumpu, how well it would be.

Ta: Oh, no, since the brave Dewa-dono is escorting her, such an unskilled man as I have nothing to do.

L.G.: However, bravery isn't the only thing necessary ~~for~~ for her journey.

(Tadanori diverts the conversation into another channel.)

Ta: I'll tell you further of it.

The thing dimly seen over there is the promontory of Shima Province.

And in this direction -----.

Here you can't see it well -----.

Please come round here.

(Goes round to the opposite side of the sail.)

Futamigaura Bay is in this direction.

The Ise Shrine is to its right.

(All of them follow Tadanoji and go to the other side of the sail. There is no sign

of human presence on the stage for a while.

All of a sudden Matsukawa Genrokuro jumps out of the companion-way with a threatening look.

Following him, Miyake Sobe comes running after him and stops him.)

Sobe: Hey, behave yourself.

I say, behave yourself.

Genrokuro: No, Chief Retainer, I appreciate your advice, though.
(Thrusts him away and tries to go again.)

So: You know, here's an important place, so
behave yourself.

Gen: No, I'll never kill him, but only disfigure him
and let him feel how we feel.

So: Should you do such a thing, our lord acting
as escort might be given much trouble.

I say, behave yourself.

Gen: However, that guy Honda who trades on his beauty and tries to curry favor with ladies is a despicable warrior. Should he be disfigured ----.

So: Here ---- (Again checks him.)

Gen: Well, not only that, but when our lord gives instructions to the boatmen, he secretly eggs them on γ and lets them disobey his orders and tries to court notoriety by offering mediation. He's such a coward. Isn't it a rare thing that our lord has high words over such a matter with the boatmen? In spite of that, he does such a thing. That's because that guy Heihachiro showed up and took good use of his good features and eloquent talk. It's no wonder that our taciturn lord has become irritated.

Only our lord ought to act as escort, says that chap, -----.

So: That fear is unfounded, I should say.

At this ferry it is customary that the House of Honda makes arrangements for the ferrying service. He doesn't mean to disturb our lord's duty.

Gen: Well, then, Chief Retainer, I'll ask you. Although you're our lord's chief retainer;

don't you think it a shame that any other man besides our lord wields power?

So: I only wish nothing serious will happen.

We're to escort the young lady to Sumpu, but we've only covered half of the way.

Should anything serious happen, it'd be a serious matter both to the young lady and to our lord.

It's fortunate that nothing has happened up to now.

Gen: You've such an idea, so you've been taken in by Honda. That young chap is good at winning a woman's heart, so should we let him do as he likes, he might usurp not only our lord's duty of attendance, but also rob our lord of the young lady.

So: Well, there isn't such a fear.

It's a well-known fact that Ggosho-sama promised our lord of it.

However cunning Honda-dono may be, he'll never be able to attempt to thwart it.

We'd better sit on the fence. You mustn't be impatient.

Gen: Although you insist that we ought to sit on the fence, so long as such a cowardly guy attends upon her,

So: Genrokuro-dono, it is only seven miles' distance by ferry-boat, so we ought to put up with it during the time. Even Honda-dono won't attend upon her after we get off this vessel. Now is an important time, so you ought to behave yourself enough. Our lord is of an impetuous disposition, so if you are so impatient, I'm afraid anything serious might happen. Behave yourself, behave yourself. (Just then Shigemasa comes in.)

Shigemasa: Genrokuro, have you been there?

Gen: Yes, what do you want with ^mme?

Shi: Tell the boatmen to make preparations for fishing-rods.

Gen: Very well.

Shi: I'd like to let the young lady to see angling so as to comfort her.

Gen: Indeed it's a good idea. We aren't on a pressing journey, so nothing is so nice as this entertainment on board the vessel. As a matter of fact, that Honda-dono has been ~~entertaining~~ entertaining the young lady sidestepping you, my lord, so I've felt indignant, but now I feel at ease.

Shi: Ha, ha, ha, ha.
You needn't worry about it so much.
However, he's utilizing his eloquence and,
so I'm afraid I look ignorant and
feel small, so I've hit on the idea.

Gen: Right you are! The wind has fallen now,
so it's convenient for angling.
Well, then, I'll tell them to do so right away.
(Genrokuro goes down the companion-way.)

Shi: Sobe, you have kept silent
up to now, but do you disagree to angling?

So: No, no, I think it's a good entertainment, but ----.

Shi: But, what's it?

So: You'd better not be too impatient, I should think.

Shi: Hmm, I know, I know.

(Just then Tadanori leads the way to Sen-hime
and the others and come Sen-hime and the others
follow him.)

Tadanori: That's the mouth of the River Aiso.
This is the River Kamata. The falling mouth of the
River Shonai is seen over there.
When you pass it, you'll get to Miya in a minute.

- L.G.: Thank you for your kind information.
Thanks to you, we've become familiar with the geography of this neighborhood.
- Ta: It's kind of you to say so.
(Just then Shigemasa comes forward.)
- Chi: Excuse me, I think the young lady finds time hanging heavy on her hands on board the vessel, so what do you say to her looking at our angling?
- L.G.: Indeed it's a good entertainment.
Tell them to make preparations for it right now.
- Chi: Very well.
(Shigemasa whispers something to Sobe.
Sobe whispers it to one of his retainers when the ~~re~~ retainer leaves.)
- L.G.: What kind of fish can we catch in this neighboring sea?
- Chi: Well, let me see.
In this neighboring sea, -----.
(Says so, but cannot continue to say.
Tadanori continues to say.)
- Ta: Here's an inland sea, so we can't expect to catch a big fish, but we can catch rock-trouts and breams.

(Genrokuro comes up letting the boatmen have several fishing-rods and shares them to Tadanori and the others.)

First tea-boy: Will you kindly let me angle, too?

(Even the tea-boys have fishing-rods in their hands and several men cast fishing lines from the sides of the ship.)

F.T.: My, it's rulling. Ah, it has taken the bait.
(In less than no time Tadanori catches a fish.)

S.T.: Oh, Meihachiro-sama has already caught one ---
a fine bream.

(Tadanori drops the line and immediately catches another fish)

S.T.: Oh, he has caught another fish again.
What a good angler he is!

(In succession, another one or two catch up fish)

F.T.: I've caught a fish, I've caught a fish.

I've also caught such a big one.

(Says to Shigemasa making a show of it.)

Demanokami-sama, have you also caught any fish?

(Shigemasa only hasn't caught any fish, so has been impatient, but without replying to it changes the fishing-place to another one with no word.

In the meantime, Tadanori again catches several fishes. Genrokuro has been dropping a fishing-rod, but ~~he~~ cannot catch any fish at all, so he gets impatient when he happens to get a fish, so he quickly hands it with the rod to Shigemasa. Shigemasa quickly lifts up the rod.)

S.T.: Dewanokami-sama has also caught one.

Oh, what a funny fish! Its mouth is three feet long. What kind of fish is it?

(Tadanori has only just caught a small bream, but when he looks at it, he says somewhat mockingly.)

Ta: It's called an "arrow sprat."

A lot of the fish can be found in this sea.

L.G.: Heihachiro-dono, is it a small bream that you've caught?

How skilful in angling you are!

(Sen-hime has been looking only at Tadanori, but he catches fish wonderfully well, so she looks well, so she looks at him more closely.)

Sen-hime: Although he uses the same bait as the others, I wonder why he can catch fish so easily.

L.G.: Indeed it's strange.

Ta: It's very kind of you to say so.

(Happens to look up at the mast.)

Oh, on that ~~mast~~ ^{mast} is perching a swan.

I'll shoot it down in your presence.

(Says to one of his attendants:)

Bring here a short bow.

(The attendant brings a short arrow

immediately. Tadanori shoots an arrow when the swan comes falling down on the vessel.)

L.C.: Well done, well done!

Indeed you're good at anything, Heihachiro ~~ed~~ done.

(Shigemasa looks at it.)

Shi: Ah, angling is no good.

I'll also shoot down a swan in your presence.

Bring here a short bow.

(Genrokuro nods reverentially and withdraws.)

F.T.: Ah, the wind has started blowing again.

Let's give up angling, shall we?

(All of them give up angling.

In the meantime, Genrokuro brings a short arrow.)

Shi: It isn't interesting for me to shoot

down a perching bird. I'll shoot down a flying bird in your presence.

(Shigemasa takes aim at a flying bird in the air and shoots an arrow, but it misses the target.)

Gen: Oh, it has gone wide of the mark by a narrow margin. I'm sorry for you.

(Shigemasa gets a little irritated and

happens to look up at the mast, where he can see a swan.)

Shi: Oh, another swan has perched on the mast again. Teihachiro-dono, what do you say to taking aim at it whether you will shoot it down or I'll shoot it down?

(Knowing that Shigemasa has forced competition upon him, Tadanori gets somewhat excited and says:)

Ta: Indeed it'd be very interesting.
Well, then, I'll compete with you.

L.G.: That would be much more interesting.
(Both of them draw bows with expressions of tension. However, both of them get cautious and do not shoot the arrows easily. All the others hold their breath and gaze at them. All of a sudden both of them shoot the arrows almost at the same moment.)

F.T.: Ah, the bird has fallen.

S.T.: Which one's arrow has struck it?
(The tea-boys and the others run and bring the bird which has fallen on the opposite side of the sail.)

S.T.: The white arrow has struck it.

(Hearing it, Shigemasa throws away the short arrow vexatiously. All of them know for the first time that Tadanori has shot it down. Shigemasa gets more and more impatient and says to Tadanori:)

Shi: You've a wonderful skill in archery and I'm struck by admiration. Now that you've displayed your wonderful skill in archery, you must be at home in fencing, as well. I'd like to have a match with you.

Ta: Excuse me for contradicting your words, but we're on board the ship now, so I'll refrain from doing so.

Shi: Well, then, Honda-dono, are you going to refuse it?

(Having seen Shigemasa get impatient, Sobe has been worried about him and says without being able to master his emotion:)

So: My lord! (Pulls him by the sleeve.)

Shi: Shut up!
None of your business!

(Lady Gyobukyo wishes that Tadanori would defeat Shigemasa and says:)

Lady Gyobu: Heihachiro-dono, what do you say to having a match with him?

Ta: However, in presence of the young lady, -----.

Sen-hime: Never mind, never mind.

I'd also like to see your skill.

Ta: Well, then, excuse me ----.

(Says to the attendant:)

Bring here a wooden sword.

(The attendant brings a wooden sword.)

Both of them start a match.

After a while Shigemasa knocks down Tadanori's wooden sword and strikes his elbow hard.

Now that Shigemasa has won the match, he looks triumphant. Sen-hime happens to see Tadanobu's wrist bleeding.

Sen: Reihachiro-dono has got hurt.

Lady, give medical treatment to him right away.

L.G.: Very well. (Nurses Tadanori.)

Sen: Reihachiro, doesn't your wound ache?

Ta: No, not so much.

Sen: You'd better take a rest right away.

I'll also go back to the room.

(Sen-hime takes the waiting-maids with her and goes to the prow with them.)

Following them, Tadanobu leaves. For the first time Shigemasa has been able to show his ability,

so he has expected some praising words from Gen-hime, but she has spoken kindly only to Tadanobu and left immediately, so his triumphant look disappears suddenly and more uneasiness befalls him.

Genrokuro gets indignant and rises to his feet sternly.)

So: Oh, how rash of you!

Gen: However, she spoke kindly only to the young chap of Honda, but didn't speak anything to our lord -----.

So: Don't push yourself forward ^w on such an occasion. Keep presence of mind.

(Genrokuro says reluctantly:)

Gen: Very---very well.

(Sobe takes the sword which Shigemasa placed beside him at the time of the match and hands it to Shigemasa with no word.

Shigemasa also receives the sword from him with no word. There are tears in Shigemasa's eyes.

Shigemasa says helplessly:)

Shi: I wonder why I've done such a thing today.

Sobe: My lord, you needn't worry about it.

My lord, Ogosho-sama assured you of it.

Ogosho-sama will never eat his words, so please take it easy.

(Shigemasa nods with no word.

The ship seems to have entered port.

From within the vessel the sign of arrival
of the ship is sounded.)

Gen: Oh, the ship seems to have entered port.

(The large sail is lowered with a creak
when the prow is clearly seen.

Over there is seen the port town of Miya.

And at the prow Sen-hime and Tadanori stand with
their backs toward the spectators looking at the port.

Shigemasa looks at them and gets indignant.

Thereupon Sobe plucks him by the
sleeve.

After a while Shigemasa cannot stand remaining there,
so he hurriedly goes down the bottom of the
vessel with no word.)

----- Act Drop -----

THE THIRD ACT

--- The First Scene ----

The small room for tea ceremony within the Sumpu Castle: in front there is a garden. An autumnal day, several days later the previous act: the lovely sunlight of the afternoon shines in the room.

Ieyasu is taking tea which Sen-hime is making. When Ieyasu is not on official duty and sips tea like this at leisure in the inner room, even Ieyasu is nothing but a mere grandfather at home. As for Sen-hime, she is a grand-daughter who can coax her grandfather to her heart's content.

Ieyasu: What a nice season!

Oh, shrikes are chirping.

Sen-hime: Grandfather,

Will you go hawking again?

I: I'll go one of these days.

Unless I expose myself to the air from time to time my body will be affected, I'm afraid.

By the way, how is your melancholia?

You've recently taken a turn for the better, I suppose.

Sen: Yes, I've completely recovered from the illness of late.

I: That's good. I've been worried about you for a time.

(A waiting-maid comes in and places her hands on the mat.)

I: What?

Waiting-maid: Sakazaki Dewanokami-sama has come.

(Ieyasu seems a little troubled and says:)

I: Has Dewa come, eh?

W-m: Yes.

Sen: Grandfather, are you going to see him?

I: Yes.

Sen: When you meet him, will you talk the matter over with him again?

I: He must have come all the way for the purpose, so I shall have to talk it over with him, I'm afraid.

Sen: But I'm against the matter.

(Ieyasu with a troubled look says to the waiting-maid:)

I: Anyhow, let him wait over there.

W-m: Very well.

(The waiting-maid leaves.)

I: Dear, do you dislike Dewa so much?

Sen: Yes, I dislike him.

I: Because he's ugly?

Sen: No, I don't think he's so ugly.

I: Well, then, you don't mind it, do you?

Sen: But I dislike Dewa, because he tries to ^bbluff.

I: In the world today, the stronger, the better, you know.

Sen: Although he bluffs, he has not much skill.

I: Well, I don't think so.

Sen: Oh, I've told you the truth.

While we were crossing the sea of Kuwana on our way home the other day, on board the ship Dewa displayed various kinds of military arts, but he turned out to be unskilled in any art.

I: I don't think he's so clumsy, though.

Sen: But when he angled, ----.

I: Even if he is poor at angling, it isn't a shame to him as a warrior.

Sen: Besides, he failed to shoot a swan and played a cunning trick on his opponent in a match.

I: Did he do such a lot of things?

Sen: Honda Heihachiroh was also on board, so

Dewa impatiently proposed a lot of things to Heihachiroh

I: Hmm, Dewa must have been jealous of his advantages.

Although Dewa had been escorting you till then by himself, handsome Heihachiroh interrupted his work, so he became impatient, I should say.

Sen: Such a squeamish and restless man is unlike a warrior, so I dislike him.

I: Well, if you think so, he'll be sorry.

Dewa only wanted to display his skill to you,
I suppose.

Sen: I knew well of it on the occasion of the *fall of the* ^{Castle.}

I: Although you know of it, like any other man in
presence of a woman he is apt to show you that
he is really much stronger.

I also had the same experience in my younger days.

Sen: However, he couldn't shoot down even a swan,
so he is good at nothing, isn't he?

I: He must have been impatient.

Although he is an able man, on such an
occasion he must have lost presence of mind and
failed in it.

However, it's too unkind of you to say that Dewa is
unskilful and restless.

Sen: Grandfather, you seem to side with Dewa very
much, I should say.

I: No, I don't mean to side with Dewa, but if you
insist on saying that you dislike Dewa for the reason,
it's your misunderstanding, so I've explained it to
you roughly.

What do you say to marrying Dewa?

Sen: I won't.

I: You mustn't say such a selfish thing.

Sen: It's you that are selfish, Grandfather.

I: Why am I selfish?

Sen: That's because you are trying at will to let me
marry one man and another for the convenience

of your stratagem, aren't you?

(Ieyasu gets a little confused.)

Sen: No other woman in the world is so unhappy as I.

While I was still a mere child, Grandfather, you married me off to Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal of Osaka and as soon as Osaka fell in your hands, you told me to marry the man whom I had never seen and of whom I had never heard till then.

Is there anything so immoral as this?

(Cries hysterically.)

I: Oh, you mustn't cry so much.

Sen: I'd rather have been burnt to death together with the people of the castle at the time of the fall of the castle than be bothered with such a matter.

I: Don't say such an absurd thing.

Sen: I don't care to be taken in wedlock from one house to another as a present of your stratagem, Grandfather.

I: Oh, I don't mean to do such a thing.

I'm only worried about you and wish for your happiness. If you have a dislike to it, there is no help for it, but although Dewa has ugly features, he's a brave young man to be rarely met with nowadays, you know.

Sen: Well, however you may praise him, I dislike him.

I: Well, then, I'll ask you again.

Who saved you from the castle of
Osaka?

Sen: Dewa did.

I: Then, you owe Dewa for your life, don't you?

Sen: I know it well.

I: Then, isn't it a proper way for you to marry the savior?

Sen: Excuse me for contradicting your words,
Grandfather, but I've another way to return the
kindness of the savior, I should think.

Although I owe him for my life, I don't think.

I'm under an obligation to become his wife.

If a woman has to become her savior's wife,
she'll have to marry over and over again.

I: Young as you are, I'm no match for you in
chopping logic, but I promised him to give
you in wedlock.

Sen: Well, Grandfather, you might have given him
your word, but I didn't make such a promise with him.
You're really hasty, grandfather.

You ought to have told me of it in advance.

I: You're too much for me, Dear. You're the only
person throughout the length and breadth of Japan
that disobeys my order.

Sen: Are you going to force me to do so in saying such
a thing, Grandfather?

I: No, I'll give up, I'll give up if you dislikes him so much.

As a matter of fact, I didn't give such a firm promise to him willingly.

Sen: Well, then, you ought to have said so from the first.

I: To be frank with you, when Dewa started for saving you from the trouble, I said that I'd give you to him as his wife, but at heart I didn't intend to give you to him. However, unless I had said such a thing to him, he wouldn't have saved you from death by cutting his way through the enemy camp in the teeth of the raging fire.

Sen: My goodness!

Then, Grandfather, you told him such a lie from the first, didn't you?

I: I don't mean to say that I told him a lie, but I cheered him up by saying so.

Sen: If you have such a mind, Grandfather, shall I marry Dewa resolutely?

(Ieyasu gets a little confused and says:)

I: Will you marry him, eh?

Sen: Yeah, because I feel pity for him.

I: Are you goin' to marry him in earnest?

Sen: I don't mind marry him, but ----

(Hesitates to say further.)

I: But me no buts.

(Senhime keeps silent and covers her face with the hands bashfully.)

I: Ha, ha, ha, ha.

Do you have any other man whom you'd like to marry?

(Sen-hime covers her face more and more.)

I: And who's the very man?

(Senhime covering her face ~~bashfully~~ with the hands says something bashfully in an ambiguously small voice.)

I: What? I can't understand you at all.

Speak more clearly -----

(Roughly understands her words.)

Ha, ha, ha, ha!

Hmm, you mean that man Heihachiroh, don't you?

That young chap seems to be the type of man whom you like.

If you have the man of your heart, no wonder you're disinclined to marry Dewa.

(There is a pause.)

By the way, Dewa has long been waiting, so I'll have to reply to him anyway, but I'm at a loss how to reply.

(Ieyasu has been in deep thought for a while, but soon claps his hands.

A waiting-maid comes.)

I: Call Bouden here.

(The waiting-maid reverentially retires.

After a while, Nonjin Souden comes in.)

Souden: Excuse me, have you called me?

I: Souden, I've had a trouble.

Sou: What has happened?

I: As a matter of fact, as you must know,
I promised Dewa that I'd marry my
grand-daughter to him, but she insists that
she wouldn't marry him at any cost.

Sou: Oh, I see.

I: By the way, Dewa has come here today.
I know, Dewa will insist on marrying
her while she will persist in contradicting him,
so this very time I'm all at sea.
Since the battle of Sekigahara I've never had such a
bitter experience.
Ha, ha, ha, ha. That's why I've called you.
Haven't you any good idea?

Sou: Well, let me see.

I: Anyhow, I'll feign illness,
so will you please see him in my place?

Sou: Very well.

I: Like a smart man that you are, you must have some
good idea.

Sou: Well, it has been so sudden that I haven't yet hit
on any good idea, but Dewa-dono, as you know,

is a straightforward man; so I think I shall be able to persuade him of it rather easily.

I: Then, I'll leave the matter to your discretion.

Sou: Certainly.

---- The Second Scene ----

A Front Room of the Same Castle

Dewanokami Shigemasa is seated alone in the room; before him are placed light refreshments. After a while Souden comes in.

Souden: Hallo, Dewa-dono, I'm glad you have come.
 I'm pleased to see you in good health as ever.

Shigemasa: Most Reverend Souden, I'm very glad you're
 always in good health, too.

Sou: Well, Ohgosho-sama ought to see you,
 but, sorry to say, he has been sick for a few days,
 so if you'd like to have a talk with him,
 I'd listen to you, instead, and tell him
 of your business.

(Shigemasa looks a little worried.)

Shi: Well, is Ohgosho-sama sick?
 Is he seriously ill?

Sou: No, he isn't so seriously ill,
 but is confined to his room.

Shi: I haven't known of it at all.
 As a matter of fact, the other day he kindly told me of
 an increase of my yearly stipend, so I've
 come here to express my thanks to him for it.

Sou: Oh, you're very grateful.
 When Ohgosho-sama comes up to the capital,
 I'll tell him of it in detail.

By the way, you distinguished yourself in the battle of the Castle of Osaka, so no wonder you were told by him of an increase of your yearly stipend, I should say.

Shi: No, no, I'm ashamed of myself.

By the way, Most Reverend, I suppose you're well acquainted with the affairs of the inner palace, so I'll ask you: I'll have to make various kinds of preparations for the coming wedding ceremony, so I'd like to know in advance when the young lady will come to marry me.

(Mouden pretends ignorance for a while.)

Sou: The young lady?

Whom do you mean by the young lady?

Shi: I mean the young lady Sen-hime.

In the battle of Osaka, Mgosho-sama told me that he would give her to me in wedlock. If I remember right, Most Reverend, you were also present there with him.

Sou: Ah, do you mean that matter?

Well, then his messenger has already been sent to you for it, I should think.

Shi: No, no, no messenger has been sent to me by him nor has he told me of the matter through anybody up to now.

Sou: Well, what a careless thing it has been!
I'll tell them to inquire into the matter closely.
(Shigemasa says a little uneasily:)

Shi: Would you please tell me of the message here?

Sou: If you haven't yet known of it, I'll tell you of it.
The fact is that Sen-hime who, as you must know,
had been the lady of the Lord Keeper of the
Privy Seal in Ohseka has been in the blues and rather
run down since the castle fell and the Lord
Keeper of the Privy Seal passed away then..
No wonder the young lady isn't feeling herself
at all nowadays, I should say.

Besides, she has recently said that she would like
to have her hair cut short so as to pray for the
repose of the soul of the Lord Keeper of the
Privy Seal.

Shi: Why, does she mean to say that she'd become a nun?

Sou: Yes, she is expected to come to my temple and to
have her black hair cut short.

Haven't you heard of it from him?

What a careless thing!

Shi: Is it true?

Sou: How dare I tell you a lie?

Shi: Well, then, as to the matter of his giving me the young
lady -----.

Sou: Now you understand what I told you just now,
so please give her up.

(Shigemasa gets a little angry and says as
if blaming Souden:)

Shi: However, Ohgosho-sama said that he would
surely give her to me at the time of the battle
of Uhsaka.

Sou: I'll admit that Ohgosho-sama said so,
but however powerful Ohgosho-sama might be,
he would be unable to force her to marry
you in spite of the fact that she would become a nun.

Shi: Excuse me for contradicting your words,
but unlike the words of a common rustic, should
Ohgosho-sama who is reigning over this country
cast his words, the politics of this country would
be in chaos, I'm afraid.

Sou: There is a grain of truth in your words,
but I think it would be absurd if she should be
forced to marry you in spite of the fact
that she would pray for the repose of the soul of
the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal.
Although he once promised you to do so,
it'd be better for him to retract his words if he'd
think it immoral from the standpoint of humanity
and it'd be the way that the ruler of this country
should take, I should say,

(Shigemasa is at a loss how to reply.
Thereupon Souden says softly.)

Sou: Well, it's good officially in theory,
but when I sound your mind, I feel
really sorry for you. However, unlike
any other matter, it's a matter of
the young lady's becoming a nun,
so please accept it.

Shi: ----- (Keeps silent.)

Sou: In fact, I'm awfully sorry for you.
Even Ohgosho-sama must be very much
obliged to you. The other day he
told you of an increase of twenty
thousand "koku"'s worth of your
yearly stipend taking the matter into
consideration, I suppose. However,
if you'd want me to, I would tell
Ohgosho-sama of your state of mind.

Shi: Well, it'd be too good for me if
my yearly stipend would be raised
more, so I'll refuse it. (Says
a little familiarly.)

By the way, most Reverend, I'd like

to ask a favor of your rather abruptly.

I should like to contribute something to your temple "Konjiin", so would you kindly receive it?

Sou: Oh, how pious of you! I'll receive anything that you'll donate.

Shi: It's kind of you to say so.

Then, first of all, I'll donate a set of golden candlesticks and I'd like to offer something or other again some other day. Instead, would you kindly do me a favor?

Sou: And what's your request?

She: (With a serious look) I'll leave the matter to your discretion, so would you please put in a good word for me so that I might be able to marry the young lady?

(Souden straightens himself.)

Sou: Dewa-dono, have you said such a thing seriously?

(Shigemasa gets a little excited and looks at Souden. Souden tries to overwhelm Shigemasa and says:)

Sou: Dewanokami-dono, should such a hero as you

do such a thing, wouldn't it disgrace your name?

I appreciate your kindness of donating it to my temple, but now that you've said such a thing I've seen through your mind. It's shameful of you to try to wheedle me into letting you marry the young lady on the pretext of donation.

Do you think that I'd be utilized by you for bribery?

(Shigemasa feels sorry for his words, so suddenly takes a few steps backward on his knees and says:)

Shi: Oh, I beg your pardon for my careless words. In spite of your presence, most Reverend, I'm sorry I've said such a silly thing. Please pardon me.
(Souder sees Shigemasa feel sorry and says:)

Sou: Well, I only warned you against it. Hold up your hands, please. Otherwise I'd feel sorry, instead.

Shi: Ah, my mind is perturbed -----.

Sou: I understand your mind.

(There is a pause. All of a sudden Shigemasa places his hands down on the mat.)

Shi: Most Reverend, will you please tell me, for mercy's sake, what I should do now?

Sou: Why would you ask me to tell you such a thing?

(Shigemasa says seriously:)

Shi: I'm sorry I said such an audacious thing to you just now. However, I couldn't give up the young lady, so I said such a thing, but I'll admit it was indeed careless of me to say such a thing and I'll be careful what I say from now on, I can assure you. Would you please tell me if there is any way that would make the young lady give up having her hair cut short and grant my request?

Now that it has come to such a pretty pass, I've no other way

but to ask for your help, Most Reverend.
I'm a ^urestic and no stickler for ceremony,
so I'm at a loss what to do. I'll tell
you frankly what I'm thinking about.
Please save me from my mental anguish
by power of your virtue, Most Reverend.
(Places his hands down on the mat.
Souden seems to be perplexed.)

Sou: But it -----.

Shi: Before Ohgoshō-sama said so I hadn't
thought of her at all, but since he said
that he would give her to me in wedlock
I have been unable to give up the young
lady. Since then I've come to think of
nothing but that of the young lady.
In fact, I jumped into the raging fire
so as to save the young lady from death.
(Points to his own face.)
Look at this. Then I got burnt in the
face and this is the very burn.
Well, I don't mean to boast of my service,
I'd like to let you understand my mind.
That's why I couldn't give up the young
lady even if you'd tell me to do so.
Most Reverend, please understand my

pitiabile mind and give assistance to me.

Sou: (Keeps silent.)

Shi: Most Reverend, if you'd tell me, I'd
Jump into the fire and go under the water.
I don't mind doing anything hard at all
for the sake of the young lady. As a
matter of fact, I've never been so infatuated
with any other woman up to now.
However, this time, I'm ashamed to say
that I think dearly of her while waking or
sleeping. Should I say such a thing openly,
I'd be sniggered at by people; but I should
be afraid neither of shame nor of respect-
ability if I should be only granted to
marry the young lady -----.

Sou: I understand your mind thoroughly, but this
matter is beyond my power, I should say.
Moreover, even if you are so much devoted to
the young lady, in case that she wouldn't
given her heart to any other man except
the dead Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal,
she would have to be divorced by you after
all should she get married to you.
I ought to take the point into considera-
tion, I should say.

Shi: (Keeps silent.)

Sou: Dewa-dono, it'd be better for you to give her up, I should think.
I don't think Ohgosho-sama would leave you in the lurch.

Shi: ----- (Keeps silent.)

Sou: Especially, the young lady won't marry into any other family, but will become a Buddhist nun, so youⁿ doubt will be dispelled, Please give up what you've longed for up to now as a nightmare.

Shi: Well, then, can you assure me that the young lady won't marry into any other family in the future?

Sou: Now that she has made up her mind to become a nun, she'll never do such a thing.

Shi: Excuse me for repeating myself, but will she never marry into any other family?
(Souden gets a little frightened, but says resolutely.)

Sou: She won't do so, I can assure you.
(Sakazaki drops his head with no word.)

Souden feels sorry for him and says:)

Sou: Then, will you accept it?

Shi: (Keeps silent.)

Sou: (Repeats himself.)

Will you accept it?

(Shigemasa says painfully.)

Shi: I'll accept it.

Sou: I'm glad you have given her up.

Not only Ohgsho-sama and the young lady but also the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal in the other world will be much obliged to you.

(Shigemasa stands on ceremony and says:)

Shi: Most Reverend, will the young lady become a nun in your temple, "Konjiin"?

Sou: Yes, she will.

Shi: Then, as I told you a while ago, I'd like to donate a set of candlesticks formally.

Of course I'll do so out of my religious motive, but not out of my selfish motive, so I hope you'll receive it.

Sou: Oh, how pious of you! I'll receive with pleasure.

(Souden claps his hands. A tea-boy comes in.)

Sou: Bring the dishes which I ordered you a while ago.

Shi: Thank you for your kind entertainment, but I'll refuse it to-day.

(Souden says to the tea-boy:)

Sou: Then, make tea for him.

Shi: It's really awfully kind of you, but I feel rather run down to-day, so I must be going now.

(Shigemasa makes a bow to Souden and rises up from his seat helplessly. The drum announcing the sixth hour of ~~the~~ the evening sounds comically. Souden gets glad that he has succeeded in his trick, but seems to feel pangs of conscience.)

----- Act Drop -----

THE FOURTH ACT

Shigemasa's Living-Room in Sakazaki Dewanokami's Yedo Mansion, Ushigome Ward; the antechamber on the left; a verandah across the room; the garden in front of the verandah; the terrace of Hongo is seen at a distance; however, at first the paper sliding-doors are closed, so the distant scenery cannot be seen: this act develops from the afternoon to the evening on September 29th in the year 1616; it is drizzling out of doors.

A few attendants are talking in the antechamber.

Attendant A: We have had a long spell of dull weather, haven't we?

" B: Is it true that Mr. Hirozawa in charge of the dressing-room went mad?

" C: Well, he might have gone out of his mind, as we have such nasty weather every day.
By the way, who is today's messenger of the Shogun?

" B: Then, has the messenger come again
to talk with him over the matter that Sen-hime will marry into the House of Honda today?

" A: I suppose so.

" C: Even if Tajima-No-Kami-sama who is intimate with him has come, he won't agree to this matter, I should say,

Attendant B: Right you are!

Nobody will agree to this matter.

Even if she is daughter of the House of Shogun,
it is too selfish of her to marry
into another family though she refused him on the
plea that she would have her hair cut short and
become a nun, so she could not marry him.

" C: However, even if he takes up the matter with the
messenger, as Ohgoshō-sama passed away late spring,
he'll find it very difficult to talk the
matter over.

" A: Apart from that, they made light of this house
and without our lord's permission made arrangements with
the House of Honda that she would marry into the
family.

" C: Is it true that she'll marry into the family today?

" A: Absolutely true.

Her palanquin will be under guard by Nagaishinanokami-
~~sama~~ sama and Aoyama Daizō Kōsuke-sama
and her belongings, by Andō Tsushimanokami-sama,
I hear.

" B: And how about the route?

Attendant A: They'll take the route of passing by this mansion from Ushigomemitsuke, going out to the Slope of Andoh and reaching the House of Honda, they say.

" C: Are they going to pass by this mansion? Isn't it too arrogant of them to do so?

" A: They may not mean so, but they'll have to pass here by all means on their route.

" B: Well, then, will it give us a good chance for cutting our way into her retinue and robbing them of her palanquin?

" A: But such a thing would be the same as rebelling against the House of the Shogun and it would cause the extinction of our lord's house.

" C: But if things should be left to take their course, our lord would be too -----
(Cannot speak anything further due to his emotion.)

" A: Oh, you're right.
His chief retainers are worried about him on the point. Tajimanokami-sama often calls on our lord to advice him so that our lord might not do a reckless thing, I should think.
(Just then Chief Retainer Sohbeh Miyake, so the attendants make a bow to him.)

Sohbeh: Abstain from talking/: our lord will be here. Moreover, I'll have to tell you.
Today is a very important day, so you must be especially careful so that our lord might not

commit a blunder. And even if he says
he'd like to take rice-wine, advise him to
abstain from drinking as much as possible.

Attendants: Very well.

(Shigemasa comes in.)

Shi: I'm thirsty. Bring a cup of tea.

Attendant B: Very well.

(Rises up from his seat reverentially.

Soubeh comes before Shigemasa and
prostrates himself.)

Soubeh: Today you've put up with anything out of
your special mercy on your retainers,
so I, Soubeh, have nothing to do but to
shed tears of gratitude.

Shi: Unless Tajima in the capacity of the
messenger had come, I shouldn't have
put up with it, though.

Soubeh: I quite understand your mind.

Shi: It would be a disgrace to me as a warrior
that the young lady ^{whom} I had saved from death
would be taken in wedlock by Honda who had
rendered no service about the matter.
There would be no help for it after my death,
but as long as I'm alive I wouldn't let her palankeen

take even a step into the gate of Honda.

So I thought, but my intimate friend Tajima came here in the capacity of the messenger

and you had told me of your earnest desire, so today I've mastered my anger.

Sou: I'm deeply moved to your magnanimity.

Shi: However, Sohbeh, I'm mortified.

Sou: I understand your mind.

However, I hope you will put up with anything today.

I'm sure Tajimanokami-sama will never leave you in the lurch.

Shi: I also believe so.

I'll stop grumbling about it any more.

(The second attendant brings tea.)

Shi: What's this?

(Shigemasa sips the tea, but suddenly gets angry and throws the tea-cup at the attendant.

The second attendant gets astonished and prostrates himself.)

~~Second~~

Second Attendant: Was it too hot?

Shi: Did you bring the tea though you knew it had
been too hot? How rude of you!
(Soubeh tells the attendant.)

Sou: Why did you make such a mistake?
I've only just told you of it, haven't I?
(Says to Shigemasa.)

Shall I ask him to bring another cup of tea?

Shi: No more, thank you.
(A retainer comes in.)

Retainer: Excuse me, Gentaroh Matsukawa wishes
to see you, my lord.

Sou: Today our lord is feeling languid, so
tell him to call on our lord again tomorrow.

R: He insists on saying that he'd like
to see our lord today, by all means though.

Shi: Then, call him here.

R: Very well.
(Retires. Gentaroh Matsukawa comes in.)

Gentaroh: By special grace,
you've kindly allowed me to see, so I,
Gentaroh, am very much obliged to you,
my lord.

Shi: And what's your business?

Gen: Excuse me, but will you please look at this?
(Gentaroh takes a memorial out of his pocket
and offers it up. One of the attendants receives
it and hands it to Shigemasa, who opens the
memorial and looks at it, saying:)

Shi: This is a petition written in blood, ~~is~~ isn't it?

Gen: Yes. (Prostrates himself reverentially.)

Shi: Why did you write such a thing?

Gen: It's my resolute petition.

Please look at it.

(Shigemasa keeps on reading it, but suddenly tears the memorial and throws it back at Gentaroh.)

Shi: It's rude of you to urge me to do such a thing.

(Since the petition written in his blood has been thrown back at him, Gentaroh says keeping back his tears:)

Gen: Then, won't you accept my request?

Shi: How could I do such a indiscreet thing?

I am not such a harebrained man as to bring about a trouble for the sake of a woman.

(Gentaroh gets overwhelmed.)

Gen: I'm sorry, I'm sorry -----.

(Feels sorry.)

Shi: If you had presented it to me before Tajima's coming, I might have been affected by it, but now it's of no use to me.

It's rude of you have urged me to plot against the government in defiance of the Shogun, so I ought to put you to the sword right away, but today I'll forgive you, so confine yourself to your house until farther notice.

(Gentaroh wants to say something more and fidgets. Shigemitsu looks at Gentaroh's ugly blind eye and feels very unpleasant, so says:)

Shi: Oh, don't make such an expression of the eye. I don't want such an ugly as you to be in my presence.

Get out of here right away.

Sou: It's our lord's order.

Get out of here, please.

(Gentaroh leaves dejectedly.)

Shi: He brought such a filthy petition written in blood.

(Happens to look at his hands which have fumbled with the petition written in blood and suddenly says as if recalling something:)

Say, bring water: I'd like to wash my hands.

(A page brings a small tub of water to be used for his washing his hands, so Shigemasa tries to wash his hands and is about to put his hands in the small tub when his ugly features are reflected on the water, so Shigemasa feels exceedingly unpleasant when his face looks more horrible.

The page looks at Shigemasa's irritated manner and his terrible face, so he gets more terrified and his hands naturally tremble when he offers the towel to his lord.

Shigemasa looks at him and says:)

Shi: Are you afraid of me?

(The page cannot say even a word in reply.

Shigemasa immediately thinks better of it and says to Soubeh.)

Shi: Which do you think is much uglier, Gentaroh who came here just now and I?

(Soubeh cannot find any word to reply, but feels nervous, so Shigemasa smiles bitterly and says:)

Shi: Ha, ha, ha!

No wonder she dislikes me because of my ugly face.

(Soubeh is at a loss how to reply in sympathy with him.)

Shi: Soubeh, now I've given her up resolutely.

It's really ill-matched for such an ugly-looking man as me to try to marry such a beautiful woman as the young lady.

The more I think dearly of the young lady the more must I wish for her happiness.

It's all for the young lady's sake, so I'll give her up with pleasure.

Sou: Should the young lady hear of your kind words, she would be much obliged to you,

I should say. I, Soubeh, unconsciously have shed tears.

(Wipes off his tears. There is a pause.

Shigemasa says as if recalling something:)

Shi: However, the reason why my face has been so ugly ----

Sou: You said you've given her up, didn't you?

(Shigemasa says smiling bitterly:)

Shi: Ha, ha -----.

Did I say so?

(There is a pause.)

Sou: What do you say to playing a game of "go" to beguile your time?

Shi: Hmm, I'll play a game of it.

(Soubei looks back at the attendants and says:)

Sou: Will any one of you play a game with him, Attendants?

(One of the attendants bring a board of "go".

The pages put away the small tub used for washing hands and the other things.)

Attendant: Excuse me, my lord, but I will play a game with you.

Shi: In nine cases out of ten, I'll be defeated by you in the game, I'm afraid.

Attendant: Please don't say so.

(Both of them start playing a game.

One of the pages brings a lighted hand lantern. After a while, a ~~ret~~ retainer comes in.)

Retainer: Excuse me, I'll tell you.

Genrokuroh Matsukawa committed a "harakiri".

Shi: Did Genrokuroh commit a "harakiri",
eh?

(He feels as if he were despised by
Genrokuroh and gets angry.)

Shi: He must have committed a "harakiri"
to spite me. It was rude of him to do so.
Tear his dead body from limb to limb and
throw it away.

And arrest all his family and kill them.

Sou: However, ~~I~~ I'm afraid it's too severe
punishment. At the battle of Osaka
Genrokuroh -----.

(Shigemasa interrupts Soubei's words and
says:)

Shi: It isn't a severe punishment at all, but
it's still lukewarm, I should say. The
guy urged me to rob the young lady's
retinue of her palanquin with the peti-
tion written in blood, but I didn't accept
it, so he must have been discontented with
it.

Well, ^hhe must thought me a coward, because
I wouldn't do so.

That's why he must have done so to spite

me, Without knowing my prudent mind,
it was hateful of him to abuse me though
I'm his lord.

Sou: Well, I don't think Genrokuroh did such
a thing.. He was a straightforward man
throughout his life.

You didn't accept his opinion, so he
must have thought it a shame to him and
committed a harakiri", I should think.
Anyhow, I'll examine the dead body right
away. Please excuse me for a while.

(Soubeh leaves hurriedly with the steward.)

Shi: It was silly of him to have offered me
such an uncalled-for petition written
in blood and to have shortened his
life. That guy was impetuous and apt
to be too impatient. He dug his own
hole by himself, as it were.
Genrokuroh died in vain, for he had been
indiscreet in his daily conducts.
You also should behave yourselves
properly.

(All the attendants listen to him
reverentially.)

Shigemasa says to the attendant
seated at the board:)

Shi: It's your turn now.

(They again start playing the game of "go".
After a while they keep on playing, but
all of a sudden Shigemasa upsets the
board.)

Shi: Sycophant!

(The attendant ^{feels} ~~feels~~ sorry.)

Shi: Why did you put the stone ~~ain~~ such a
place?

Why did you keep on playing passively?

Although you could take off my stone,
why didn't you take it off?

You're trying to lose the game inten-
tionally. I don't find such a game
interesting.

Attendant A: Sorry to say, I was not aware of it.

Shi: Don't tell me a lie. You have been
trying to lose the game intentionally
so as to curry favor with me. I don't
like such a ^{toady} ~~toady~~ as you.

Although you are my retainer and I'm
your lord, you ought to have defeated

me in the game if you were ^{more} skilful than I. ⁹⁴ ~~Where~~ there was a chance when you could take off my stone, you ought to have taken it.

What a despicable guy you are that should have flattered me in fear and trembling though I'm your superior.

Attendant A: I beg your pardon.

(It starts drizzling.)

Shi: Ah, what nasty weather! Bring some rice-wine.

(The attendants get confused and exchange glances.)

Shi: I say, bring some rice-wine.

(The attendants bring some rice-wine and eatables reluctantly.)

Shigemasa drinks rice-wine. After draining the cup, he offers it to the third attendant.)

Shi: You always serve me conscientiously. I'll give you this cup.

Attendant C: Thank you very much, but I'm sorry I don't drink.

Shi: Do you mean to say that you won't receive

the cup of such a coward as me?

Attendant C: Oh, no, I don't mean such a thing at all.

Shi: Now that I've been made light of even by my attendants, I'm afraid I'm very cowardly. Laugh, laugh, laugh loudly at me for my cowardice. However, I care for you. so I've put up with my shame.

When I think what would become of you should you get unemployed, I feel pity for you, so I've borne it. Without knowing my mind -----.

Hum, if you don't drink, I'll drink.

(Drinks rice-wine again.)

Shi: Ah, I feel rather sultry. Open the paper sliding-doors.

(The attendants open the paper sliding-doors behind him.)

Shi: Ah, what a nice breeze! (Again takes the cup.) Fill this with rice-wine again.

(Shigemasa keeps on drinking in a happy mood, but happens to recognize a number of fire-brands going up the terrance of Hongoh over there and says to one of the attendants.)

Shi: What are the numerous lights over there?

(The attendant fidgets and cannot reply.)

Shi: What's the pompous procession over there?
(Shigemasa again replies, but while he is looking at it, he becomes aware that it is Sen-hime's marriage procession, so he suddenly says in a rough voice:)

Shi: Close the paper sliding-doors.
(The attendants close the paper sliding-doors in a flurry. Shigemasa has been in deep thought for a while, but suddenly takes up the large cup.)

Shi: Pour rice-wine.
(The attendant fills the cup with rice-wine nervously.)

Shi: Pour full to the brim.
(When the cup is filled with rice-wine, Shigemasa drains the cup, suddenly rises to his feet as if throwing away the cup, goes straight to the threshold and opens the paper sliding-doors.
The marriage procession goes up the slope serenely. The first attendant gets near Shigemasa and says.)

Attendant A: My lord!

(Shigemasa looks closely at the lights with no word.)

Attendant A: My lord, I'm afraid the night wind will affect you, so please go back to your seat.

(Without listening to the attendant's words, Shigemasa suddenly takes the spear hung on the lintel, takes off its cover and rushes out of the verandah with quick steps.

The attendants get astonished and say.)

Attendants: My lord, my lord, my lord!

(Run after him. Hearing the voice, some people jump out of another room one after another.

Sobeh also gets astonished and runs out. The stage is void of people for a while.

There is a commotion outside the wall.

The row of the lanterns on the slope is put in disorder.

After a while Sobeh and some others with Shigemasa in their arms come in.

A number of retainers come in, too.)

Shi: Oh, let me go, let me go. I am not
an insane man. Let me go.

Sou: My lord, please keep presence of mind.
(Tries to let Shigemasa take his seat.
Shigemasa says resisting him:)

Shi: Ah, I'm sorry I've let the palankeen pass
by. Before I could take the young lady
here even for one day or for one night,
what a pity that Honda should take her
-----.

Sou: My lord, my lord!
(Again tries to keep down Soubeh.)

Shi: Oh, don't stop me. I say, let me go.
Shigemasa thrusts away with all his strength
all the people who have held him down.
Shigemasa looks at Soubeh.)

Shi: Is it you that kept me from doing so?

Sou: Well, before I went there Tajimanokami-
sama had stopped you.

Shi: Then, is it Tajima that called me "insane
man"?

Sou: Yes.
(Shigemasa says vexedly:)

Shi: Did he also betray me in spite of our
friendship?

Sou: Excuse me, my lord, but you're mistaken.
Tajimanokami-sama must have said so
for your sake.

Shi: What a silly thing he said! I am not
an insane man at all.

Sou: He knew it well, but he must have inten-
tionally said so for fear that you
might have some future trouble.
Even the Shogun was said to have conje-
ctured your mind, my lord, so from his
words, you would never be / punished
severely.

Shi: Then, would you also like to make me
an insane man?

Sou: No, I don't mean so at all. Unless he
had said so -----.

Shi: Well, I didn't force my way into the
procession out of insanity, but out of
mortification. I felt so indignant that
I tried to rob them of her palanquin.

Sou: Although you insist on saying such a
thing, your dear life would -----.

Shi: In your opinion, you'd insist that his
word could save my life.

However, think of the fact that Ohgosho's void word put me in such a plight. I can't tell a lie at all. I've no mind to be saved my life by telling a lie. I'd rather die as a sane man than be saved my life as an insane man. Then I'd die peacefully.

Sou: No wonder you'd think so on your part, my lord.

Shi: Soubeh, now that I've committed such a crime, they would come to behead me tonight. Then, hand my burnt head to the messenger of the Shogun.
(Shigemasa takes his short sword and tries to commit a "harakiri" when he happens to recall Gentaroh who killed himself some time ago.)

Shi: Bury Gentaroh's dead body with ceremony.
(The sobs not only ~~of~~ of Soubeh but also of those present are heard.)

----- Curtain. -----